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nology characteristic of many recent German works on commerce. There is no attempt to crowd an encyclopædia into the compass of a text-book ; indeed, comparatively few of its pages are given up to the chronicling of facts. The book is a manual of instructions, beneficial to teacher and pupil alike. It assists the teacher, however, not in the common fashion of saving him labor, but by pointing out lines of work and guiding him so that the work will be effective. Mr. Clow is to be congratulated on being the first in the field ; he is much more to be congratulated on the admirable way in which he has accomplished his purpose.

H. R. H.

Englische Lokalverwaltung. Darstellung der inneren Verwaltung Englands in ihrer geschichtlichen Entwicklung und in ihrer gegenwärtigen Gestalt. Von JOSEF REDLICH. Leipzig: Duncker & Humblot, 1901. 8vo, pp. xxii + 835.

STUDENTS of economics will be interested chiefly in the small portions of this work which deal with the financial administration of the English town governments and county councils. The author has given careful study in England to these subjects. The book is made up chiefly, however, of a discussion of legal and political questions, most particularly a prolonged and sweeping criticism of Gneist's doctrines concerning English local government.

A. P. WINSTON.

Limitation legale de la durée du travail en Allemagne. Par JOSEPH SARRAUTE. Paris: Librairie de la Société du Recueil Général des Lois et Des Arrêts, 1900. 8vo, pp. iv + 238.

NEARLY twelve years ago the German emperor somewhat dramatically proclaimed himself the champion of the laboring poor in his dominions. More than ten years have tested in a manner the group of labor laws with which the parliament followed up this declaration. Surprisingly little had at that time been accomplished in the legal regulation of work in factories and shops. Prussia had begun quite early in the century to interfere for the protection of overworked children. The discovery that boys in the factory districts were being

disqualified physically for the military service had, in part, stimulated this interference, while the law requiring attendance of children at school served as a convenient instrument for the purpose of lightening their excessive toil in the factories. Later laws excluded from the factories children under twelve, and limited the hours of older children. The Prussian regulations, as a whole, had been adopted by the new empire, but the principle of free contract had not been violated with regard to the hours of labor for adults of either sex; the weekly day of rest was enjoyed by only 42 per cent. of the employés in factories, shops, trade and transportation, and the law as to child labor was of little force for want of proper factory inspection.

The legislation of 1891 established a maximum of eleven hours per day in factory work by women, and forbade their being employed in factories at night. Rest on Sunday was prescribed for employés not only in factories, but also in shops and commercial establishments (excluding, that is, the transportation service, hotels, theaters, and other places of public entertainment). The federal council was permitted, at its discretion, to extend the factory laws also to mines, salt-works, and shops employing certain sorts of motor force, and also to regulate the hours of labor by men when this might seem necessary out of regard for health. There were the usual provisions for exceptional suspensions of the law, at the discretion of the federal council or the administrative authority.

Within a year from the enforcement of the law an association of manufacturers undertook to ascertain the industrial effects of the eleven-hour day for women. About one thousand firms failed to answer these inquiries, and it has been suggested that if these men had felt a strong opposition to the law they would have taken occasion to protest against it. In the 313 answers received there was, however, general complaint. It was said that reduction in wages and frequent dismissals of women had followed the reduction of hours. The quotations from the reports of factory inspectors, which the present work offers us, do not seem to justify this gloomy description of the law's operations. The official report as to Baden for 1892 declares that the law was regarded there with almost universal satisfaction.

No falling off in production is proven, and in any case it would be altogether out of proportion to the diminution in the hours of labor. Few employers dissent from this opinion; on the contrary, many employers in spinning and weaving have declared to us that they would welcome a further reduction to ten hours.

It is said, officially, of Alsace-Lorraine, that the reduction of hours has not at all injured the employers. The inspector of Neusalz writes that in a factory employing 180 women and 100 men the speed of the machinery was increased by one-twelfth when the hours were reduced from twelve to eleven, so that there was no effect on the output or on wages. There are reports of an increase in earnings following the reduction in hours. In some instances the inspectors' reports show less favorable results. The shortened working day for women has sometimes necessitated or induced a shortening of the hours of work for men. This appears to have happened generally in the textile industry. It is officially announced that :

The great majority of reports show that the regulations as to Sunday rest have been applied without appreciable injury to employers or workmen. . . . The hostility on the part of many employers, which manifested itself at first, has more and more tended to disappear.

The number of women employed has increased materially, while great numbers of children, being excluded from labor under the factory laws, have found employment in the domestic industries which the law does not affect.

In two instances the federal council has exercised its right to shorten the hours of labor out of regard for the health of men. In the baking industry it was found that the hours of labor were frequently excessive; boys were sometimes employed eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. An ordinance by the council accordingly fixed for bakeries a maximum working-day, but this applies only to those bakeries where work is done at night, and where there are more than three bakings per week. From an official investigation it appears that this ordinance has been by no means burdensome to the employers—or, at most, temporarily so. The council, likewise, prescribed a minimum period of eight hours rest each day for employes in the milling industry, where workmen were sometimes at their posts for twenty-four hours continuously, sleeping by snatches in the intervals of the work, and waking at the sound of a bell when a fresh supply of grist was needed.

Mr. Sarraute has based his account of the earlier legislation upon secondary sources. As to the period since 1891 his original contribution is merely the conclusion that these later acts have fairly served their purpose. This conclusion seems from his quotation of official reports to be justified, yet one must regard it with suspicion, as the

author is evidently a partisan, and prints at length the quotations calculated to confirm his inference, while the contrary evidence is seriously slighted.

A. P. W.

The Housing Question in London: Being an Account of the Housing Work done by the Metropolitan Board of Works and the London County Council, between the years 1855 and 1900; with a summary of the Acts of Parliament under which they have worked. Printed for the London County Council by J. Truscott & Son. London: P. S. King & Son, 1901. 8vo, pp. xvi + 381.

ONE of the most lucid, interesting, and suggestive public documents ever issued is the report of the London County Council on *The Housing Question in London*, 1855-1900, prepared under the direction of Mr. C. J. Stewart by Mr. W. J. Russell and Mr. M. H. Cox. In the space of less than four hundred pages, this report sets forth the contrasted policies of the Metropolitan Board of Works down to 1889, and of the London County Council since that date, in dealing with the housing problem.

To the American reader, not yet accustomed to regard the building of dwellings for any one class of citizens as an established function of the public authorities, this volume comes as a revelation; exhibiting the London County Council following a firmly established and comprehensive policy of building, letting, and maintaining workmen's dwellings to the extent of accommodating, up to September 1900, 32,000 persons, with schemes undertaken for accommodating 12,000 more; and printing tables setting forth in detail the expenditures of many millions of pounds sterling, together with a sinking fund calculated for the repayment of the whole outlay in sixty years, thus assuring to future generations a very valuable asset.

The utter failure of the local authorities, as set forth in this report convincingly and at length, to use powers of regulating the conditions of dwellings owned by private persons and companies and occupied by working people as tenants — powers vested in these authorities in some cases forty years ago — amounts to a demonstration of the impossibility of dealing effectively with the housing problem without active, constructive intervention of the community as a whole, after the man-